

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

About

Chair

Furjen Deng (soc_fjd@shsu.edu)

Mission

The Department of Sociology's mission is to acquire and disseminate knowledge on social life, social change and the social causes and consequences of human behavior. SHSU Sociologists investigate the structure of groups, organizations, and societies and how people interact within these contexts. The primary objective of the curriculum is to provide students with the scientific tools to understand the functioning of society, and study and understand social phenomena.

Contact Information:

(936) 294-1512
CHSS 270

Website

Department of Sociology (<http://www.shsu.edu/academics/sociology>)

- Master of Arts in Sociology
- Graduate Certificate in Community Development
- Graduate Certificate in Sociology

SOCI 5099. Graduate Readings in Sociology. 1-3 Hours.

Independent study of subjects not covered in the regular graduate curricula, including independent study of particular value to students needing to pursue a special subject related to thesis. Variable Credit (1-3).

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5100. Proseminar in Sociology. 1 Hour.

Students prepare for graduate studies in sociology and are provided with the tools and resources to be successful graduate students.

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

SOCI 5310. Seminar In Sociological Theory. 3 Hours.

The course is a historical survey of the most significant 19th and 20th century developments in sociology with emphasis placed on the relevance of classic sociological theory in the formation and development of contemporary sociological theory. The characteristics and origins of major sociological schools are explored including the study of the works and ideas of Emile Durkheim, Karl Marx and Max Weber. Additionally, illustrations of the basic assumptions of Neo-Marxism, Critical Theory, Interactionism, Functionalism and Postmodernism are provided. Accounts of these paradigms are presented together with their theoretical ramifications.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5312. Smnr Sociological Research. 3 Hours.

This course includes the advanced study of logic, principles, and procedures involving techniques of design data collection and organization, analyses and interpretation for qualitative and quantitative sociological research.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5313. Qualitative Methods. 3 Hours.

This course will introduce students to a wide range of qualitative sociological methods. The course is designed to give students practical skills collecting, analyzing, and writing qualitative research. Students will learn the basics of scientific interviewing, participant observation, and content analysis.

SOCI 5314. Social Statistics. 3 Hours.

This course focuses upon various statistical techniques used to analyze survey data including descriptive and inferential statistics, cross tabulation, ANOVA, correlation and regression. Lectures, assigned readings and projects are used to describe and illustrate the logic, interpretation, and assumptions of each statistical model. Emphasis is placed upon understanding of the techniques and their assumptions as well as applications.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5319. Sociolgy of Entrepreneurship. 3 Hours.

This course examines the role of the entrepreneur in modern society and ways modern society influences entrepreneurship in communities, regions, and nations. Students will become familiar with topics including entrepreneurial risk, opportunity, innovation, and social entrepreneurship and will critically examine how entrepreneurial behavior changes across social boundaries like race, gender, and culture. Prerequisite: None.

SOCI 5320. Sociology Of Community. 3 Hours.

Advanced study of the organization, structures, groups and interaction pertaining to communities. Attention is given to social forces within communities, patterns of change and the relationship with society. Alternative theoretical perspectives analyzing community are presented along with views on the current conditions and future perspectives of communities in the United States and in other regions of the world.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5321. Cultural Sociology. 3 Hours.

This course examines culture from the sociological perspective and takes students through the classic and modern theories of culture. It also introduces major sociological methods of cultural analysis, the application of theories, and the analysis of socio-cultural phenomena. Credit 3 .

SOCI 5322. Seminar In Medical Sociology. 3 Hours.

This course provides graduate students with the conceptual and substantive knowledge of the field of medical sociology. The course focuses on salient sociological issues in health and medicine, such as the social construction of health and illness, social inequalities in health and health care, medicalization, the health profession, the health care system, and bioethics. Special attention is paid to the roles of social, cultural, and institutional factors in understanding health and health care issues in the United States and in other countries.

Prerequisite: Graduate Standing.

SOCI 5324. Seminar In Social Change & Dev. 3 Hours.

A graduate seminar which investigates the origins and modern accounts of the major theories of social change and development. Beginning with the classic works of Marx, Weber and Durkheim, contemporary theories of economic and social development are investigated. Emphasis is placed on various understandings of the concept of development and analyses of the evolution of social change and relations under capitalism. The course will explore Neo-Marxist theories of Dependence, World System and Articulation of Modes of Production along with Neo-Weberian and Modernization theories. Additionally, a review of post-modern critiques of capitalist development is presented. The Seminar will conclude with some observations on the emerging globalization of society and its implications on social and economic institutions.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5325. Seminar in Food and Society. 3 Hours.

This seminar examines the production, distribution, and consumption of food from a sociological perspective. In particular, the focus is on the analysis of the contemporary food systems. Students will learn to critically analyze issues surrounding food and society through a sociological lens.

SOCI 5331. Sociology Of The Family. 3 Hours.

This course consists of the study of the family as a social institution. It begins with a traditional functional analysis of the institution and follows with critical and interactionist interpretations. Current changes in the institution using historical and global perspectives constitute the bulk of the course.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5333. Sociology Of Religion. 3 Hours.

This course is a study of religion as it operates in society. It examines religious beliefs, religious rituals, group religious experience, and the religious community. Using a cross-cultural perspective, the course investigates the roots of religion in non-industrial societies and follows with an analysis of religion in industrial societies.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5337. Gender And Society. 3 Hours.

The course focuses on the social construction of gender and provides students a framework for critical thinking concerning gender roles in contemporary U.S. society. The course uses a socio-historical approach to investigate the concept of gender and its relationship to sexuality.

SOCI 5338. Sociology of Disasters. 3 Hours.

This course is designed to apply sociological analyses to the investigation of disasters. Disasters will be examined in terms of their origins and social impacts. The course will also explore the social dynamics that create risk of, and vulnerability to, disasters.

SOCI 5350. The Community Practitioner. 3 Hours.

Students in this course examine the role of community development practitioner and investigate theories and techniques used in the field to build community and create long-lasting social and institutional change. Students evaluate "best practices" and their impact on community policy.

Prerequisite: SOCI 5320.

SOCI 5351. Seminar-Environmentl Sociology. 3 Hours.

This course is designed to provide graduate students a thorough background in the major theoretical perspectives regarding environmental sociology. This background will enable students to view environmental issues from alternative positions and to formulate possible solutions to contemporary environmental problems. The course focuses on the social construction of the environment and on environmental problems and solutions.

SOCI 5353. Seminar In Race And Ethnic Stu. 3 Hours.

In-depth examination and critique of important monographs and journal literature dealing with the social life of American minorities. Designed to promote mature scholarship in the study of literature drawing from influences, ideologies, structural forces and changes characteristic of the social life of comparative minority groups. Students will be responsible for identifying sociological propositions reflected in the discerned patterns of interaction occurring in selected institutions in contemporary American society.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5355. Seminar In Social Inequality. 3 Hours.

This course studies contemporary class, status and power hierarchies with emphasis on empirical research pertaining to placement in these hierarchies on the basis of birth-achieved statuses such as sex, race, and class origin. Consideration is also given to contemporary and classical sociological theories of social inequality.

SOCI 5376. Applied Research Methods. 3 Hours.

This course studies specialized research methods including evaluation research and social needs assessments for sociology and related social sciences. These methods vary from the more common survey techniques by the nature of the unit of analysis (most often a case study), the types of data collection (interviews, focus groups, and existing data), and the analytical techniques used (more qualitative). Generally, these techniques are applied to the solution of community problems.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

SOCI 5378. Tchnq-Rsrch Propsl Wrt/Soc Sci. 3 Hours.

The purpose of this course is to provide students with a critical understanding of the principal technical and theoretical skills necessary for the development of research projects in the social sciences. Furthermore, it investigates the primary assumptions of qualitative and quantitative research stressing their scopes and limits. Through an examination of the epistemological characteristics of major paradigms in the social sciences, the course illustrates various analytical techniques necessary for the preparation of research proposals. This activity includes techniques for the identification of research questions, the development of justifications, the integration of theories and methods, and the development of analytic designs. This is a course specifically designed for students who would like to be involved in research grant writing and in conducting research.

SOCI 5380. Social Impct Assmt & Prog Eval. 3 Hours.

This course is designed to provide an overview of the field of social impact assessment and program evaluation. It explores basic knowledge, as well as technical skills, related to conducting a social impact assessment and program evaluation. Attention is also given to hands-on experience in the form of a group activity or an individual project covering a practical case study in the field.

SOCI 5384. Seminar in Economy and Society. 3 Hours.

Students examine the effects of economic change on the organization of society and social relations. Topics may include the consequences of globalization and neoliberalization.

Prerequisite: SOCI 5310.

SOCI 5386. The Sociology of Aging. 3 Hours.

(Prior SH course id: SOC 586); This course explores sociological theories of aging and old age from historical, demographic, comparative, social psychological and structural perspectives. It focuses on contemporary issues affecting humans as they age. It will focus on understanding the similarities and differences among ethnic groups as well as those with different social and human capital.

SOCI 6098. Thesis Practicum. 1-3 Hours.

Students are encouraged to initiate planning and formulation of approved problems in conjunction with course work in Methods and Theory. Variable Credit (1-3).

SOCI 6099. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.

The completion and accepted defense of Thesis. The student must be registered in SOCI 6099 the semester in which the master's degree is to be completed. Variable Credit (1-3).

SOCI 6360. Seminar In Sociology. 3 Hours.

This seminar is designed to provide an examination and study of substantive areas and/or sociological significant issues not covered in other departmental offerings. Particular attention is on current literature presented in the context of papers and discussion. May be repeated.

Prerequisite: Graduate standing or consent of instructor.

Chair: **Furjen Deng**

Chair: **Jason Thomas Konefal**

Alessandro A Bonanno, PHD (soc_aab@shsu.edu), *Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Univ of Kentucky; MA, Univ of Kentucky; BA, University of Messina

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Gene Louis Theodori, PHD (glt002@shsu.edu), *Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology*, PHD, Penn State Un-Univ Park; MS, Texas A&M University; BA, California Un of Pa

Interim Faculty

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